

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF DECEMBER 18, 2012  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS

The regular meeting of the Meadows Place City Council was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Mayor Charles Jessup, Meadows Place City Hall, One Troyan Drive, Meadows Place, Texas, with notice of said meeting giving the time, place, date and subject thereof having been posted as prescribed by Section 551.041, TGC with the following members present and in attendance:

Mayor: Charles Jessup

Aldermen: Terry Henley  
Terry Morgan  
John Isbell  
John Whiteman  
Dave Wilkens

thus constituting a quorum

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by resident Bill Meyers and Sergeant Simmons gave the invocation.

Sergeant Richard Simmons provided the Meadows Place Police Department update. There were 2 accidents reported, 6 arrest and 1836 service calls. There were 43 reports and 314 traffic violations with 0 charges. Residential burglaries were down from 1 to 0 and commercial burglaries were down from 3 to 0. There were approximately 30 attendees at the last Neighborhood Watch meeting held at the new Tactical Training Center. The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held, Wednesday November 28, at 7 pm, topic will be holiday safety. The Meadows Place Police Department will continue TLC Program to help mitigate criminal activity. Latest TLC survey made 65 contacts with 46 passing and 19 failing.

Mayor Jessup stated that he is proud to announce that residential burglaries are down due to the Neighborhood Watch meeting again. Sergeant Richard Simmons stated that closure rate was higher than other agencies according to state statistics. Mayor Jessup stated it makes him very happy that Meadows Place closure rate is higher than other cities so send kudos to Chief Gary Stewart. Mayor Jessup encouraged residents to stop and ask police officers questions at the end of each meeting to visit as they do attend the Council meetings to update residents. The Tactical Training Center(TTC) utilizes a training program by Laser Shot. Laser Shot wanted to train some of their staff at the Tactical Training Center and have used the City of Meadows Place facility, which is a great way to build a great working relationship. Councilmember Terry Henley stated that the HGAC is aware of the Tactical

Training Center and there may be opportunities for other agencies to take advantage of this facility. Mayor Jessup was pleased at the turnout for last month's Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

Mayor Jessup provided a Public Works Update in the absence of Public Works Director Dan McGraw. Dan has worked with the City for many years and is very knowledgeable in all areas including the labs and testing of the City's water. Dan is serving on numerous committees including a storm water committee where a plan is being developed to work on future goals in handling storm water systems. He noted some tests were not done by Southwest Water. Southwest Water failed to send them to TCEQ in a timely manner. This situation has been addressed. A permit request has been submitted and our new five year permit should be received by the end of December. The Mayor has done a drive through with Dan McGraw assessing conditions of the roads. Some of the roads are shifting due to drought conditions and aging. Overall, the City is doing the best we can with these roads. Costs continue to stay low on repairing roads. Roads are shifting and staff and Council members are seriously looking at what should be done within the City's 25 year plan. The City of Meadows Place has been asked to submit additional information regarding reclaimed water to Texas Parks and Wildlife. Over 100 cities have come to see what Meadows Place is doing. A custom walk way will be built around the structure at no cost to the City and will be complete within the next month. Inspections completed in the last three months include 5 Alarms; 4 Electrical; 7 Foundations; 9 Heat and A/C; 10 Plumbing; and 2 irrigations inspections. Regular lighting is being replaced with LED and low wattage lighting. We are now leasing the power easement from CenterPoint for \$500 per year versus the thousands of dollars that was originally requested thanks to negotiations completed by Parks Director Monya Keenen. Treating this area is important as it is a big source of mosquitos. Dan has attended a mosquito workshop and plans to hold a meeting for residents in the spring to assist in their education.

Mayor Jessup then gave the City's Fire Department report. He noted the report included 23 EMS calls, one vehicle fire, four Fire/Carbon Monoxide alarms, and four other fire related incidents with a total of 46 calls made to Meadows Place in November.

During Mayor's comments, Mayor Jessup noted: 1) The Meadows Place City Council thanked Monya Keenen and other Parks staff for their hard work on Christmas Memories. Parks assistance is greatly appreciated. 2) Joe Edwards has resigned. The Mayor read a short insert from his acceptance letter to Mr. Edward's resignation letter. Joe made a difference in the City and will be missed and is a part of the history of Meadows Place. 3) A TIP request has been submitted via a revised application for funding of the West Airport Reconstruction Project. Deadline was December 12th to submit the revised applications. The Mayor thanked Rick Staigle for his hard work and dedication

in assisting with the submission. The construction improvements have been delayed due to waiting on the status of the TIP Request. 4) Hilmar Moore, Mayor of Richmond, Texas passed away a few weeks ago. He was the longest serving mayor in United States history and worked very hard for the people of Richmond. 5) The Mayor and Yolanda Wilson, City Secretary will be sitting down to discuss information obtained from this year's TML conference. TML assists by educating city councils and city staff to help better govern. 6) A Vision meeting was held last Saturday to discuss goals and objectives. A five, 15 and 25 year plan for the City was discussed. Road improvements, revamping city hall and other facilities that will be old in 25 years as well as redoing waterways was included as well as low wattage lighting at city facilities, The TTC has already been converted and the Community Center and City Hall are being looked into. The five year infrastructure plan will be in place so that the City can plan for the future and know what it will cost. Generators will be acquired as needed. Grants will be looked at to provide for hardware and decorative street lighting Perhaps we can work with CenterPoint to provide low cost suggestions.

Councilmember Morgan made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Isbell, to adopt the minutes from the November 27, 2012 Workshop and Regular Meetings and the December 8, 2012 Special Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Henley then made a motion, seconded by Councilman Isbell to approve the City's Investment Policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The 2011-2012 annual audit was presented to Council for approval by Jennifer Day, auditor with McCall Gibson Swedlund Barfoot, PLLC. A few minor typos were pointed out and Ms. Day noted they would be corrected in the final audit. Councilman Henley made a motion to approve the audit with changes made. Councilman Wilkens seconded this motion which carried with unanimous approval.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE INSTRUCTING, AUTHORIZING AND ALLOWING THE MAYOR AND INVOLVED CITY OFFICIALS TO CHANGE THE SOUTH KIRKWOOD PROJECT, CONTROL SECTION JOB: 975 (AS FOUND IN THE 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AS LISTED BY THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL) FROM THE CURRENTLY LISTED AND PROPOSED 2-DESCRIPTION LANE ROADWAY WITH ROUNDABOUTS TO THE DESCRIPTION: 4-LANE BOULEVARD WITH TRAFFIC**

**CONTROLS THAT ARE TO BE DETERMINED IN THE FUTURE THAT WILL (I) REDUCE VEHICLE EMISSIONS, (II) REDUCE TRAFFIC DELAYS, AND (III) INCREASE TRAFFIC THROUGHPUT FOR THE ROADWAY.**

A motion was made by Councilman Henley to table this ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman John Isbell. A discussion followed.

Councilman Henley stated Ordinances are developed to show the things that we can and cannot do. This Ordinance is incomplete. He asked the audience how many would agree to remove the stop signs on Kirkwood. No one raised their hands. Modern engineering standards will not warrant stop signs on Kirkwood. We will not be acting on Kirkwood for 2 to 3 years. This is why the item should be tabled until it is better developed.

Councilman John Isbell stated that he is new to the job duties as a councilmember. He has an open mind and he learns fast. He is open to all suggestions for this project and feels there are pros and cons for both plans. This divisive issue started well before he started his term as a council member. He feels all citizens should have a say moving forward. Councilman Isbell stated he does not believe the timing is correct to adopt this ordinance. This ordinance has no provisions for traffic control devices along the entire length of Kirkwood from West Belfort to West Airport. Kirkwood without traffic calming devices will become a "raceway or speedway". Even with 35 mph speed limits, traffic speeds will exceed the limits and there will be a higher rate of accidents, and he fears deaths associated with these accidents. Whether it is four lanes or two lanes, it should be up to the citizens of the city. We cannot allow sloppy ordinances such as this one and face law suits over irrational decisions. We need to discuss this in special sessions involving all citizens so Council can make an educated decision.

Mayor Jessup then recognized audience members who wished to address Council on this issue. Vivian Whiteman, from the 11400 block of Brook Meadows said she wondered why the Mayor feels taking down the stops signs is a bad thing. Mayor Jessup noted he did not say taking down the signs was a bad thing, he merely stated stop signs would not be warranted along Kirkwood with modern engineering standards. He is not judging whether this is a good or a bad thing but that the roadway will have to be re-engineered and, as he understands it, with a traffic light at both West Belfort and West Airport, a modern warrant will not allow stop signs on Kirkwood. The Mayor said he felt it short sighted and is irresponsible to put forth a plan with no traffic control provisions.

Larry Mahoney from the 12100 block of Scottsdale asked if the road was changed to two lanes, would stop signs be included. Mayor Jessup said if the road is made two lanes, as originally proposed with adequate traffic controls,

no stop signs would be needed. Mr. Mahoney feels stop signs will be necessary to preserve property values and keep children safe and was against this ordinance.

Stewart Graham from the 11900 block of Amblewood asked about bussing kids to school that live across Kirkwood if there are no stop signs. He was told that issue has not yet been determined.

Abby Murphy from the 12100 block of Alston asked if emergency vehicles and trucks would be able to safely travel the proposed roundabouts. Mayor Jessup said before even considering the roundabouts, meetings were held with the EMS, Police and Fire Departments to discuss moving their vehicles through the City on modern roundabouts. While the modern roundabouts would slow traffic to 20 mph, the length of the fire trucks was taken into consideration. A truck apron lip has been put into the design which has been approved by emergency departments. Mayor Jessup added that if a vehicle breaks down in front of him on a roundabout, he will have to wait for a break in oncoming traffic to get around it. This was easily accomplished on West Bellfort during its recent reconstruction.

David Lantz from the 11946 block of Meadow Crest said he was not particularly in favor of roundabouts but he was not against them as such. He would still like to see an example of four in a row but he agrees some traffic control is needed on Kirkwood.

Joe DeBruyn of the 11400 block of Brighton asked why the City would approve this ordinance when there are so many open issues that are not addressed and still to be determined?

Debbie Hansen of the 11300 block of Brighton said he agreed with Mr. DeBruyn and stated that there are very few choices but it appears that it would be dangerous to have Kirkwood without traffic lights.

Steve Bezner from the 11900 block of Amblewood asked if this ordinance is passed, then what? Councilman Whiteman said the Mayor has stated that State Engineers have complete control of our streets. Mayor Jessup said he did not say that. He said that stop signs are not warranted and they will not be included in the re-engineering plan. Councilman Whiteman said we must have alternatives. Mr. Bezner asked if the measure fails, are there any additional ordinances in effect that will require roundabouts? Mayor Jessup said roundabouts will not be installed without much more public education and public input and that was the plan all along. Mr. Bezner asked Councilman Morgan if he had an opinion on the matter. Councilman Morgan answered yes. His opinion was actually in the form of a question, He asked if Council has considered speed bumps along Kirkwood as a traffic control device. He added that he will vote for the Ordinance as presented. Mayor Jessup responded that

speed bumps have been considered multiple times but the Police Department, EMS and Fire Department are all against speed bumps.

Shirley Isbell, 12300 block of Scottsdale, said when she was elected to Council, she had no statement on roundabouts but promised she would do the research. On her own dime she drove all over the country, asked questions and found out that we must follow Texas Engineering Standards and no engineer would put their stamp of approval for stop signs on Kirkwood.

John Whiteman, said to be honest, all people on City Council have one thing in common, and that is we all want what is best for the City and its citizens. "The majority of the time we agree on what is best for the city however we can't be agreement on all issues all the time". The Ordinance would allow a four-lane versus a two lane road.

If it were a danger, it would not be a part of the proposal and it is up to the citizens to choose between the options that are presented before them. I'm an elected official and I feel this is how it should be done. We'll not be eliminating the discussion on what need to be done on Kirkwood. It's a two-lane project and we should address mobility. We can still have hearing but we can't wait when the majority of the citizens are ready for improvements and do not prefer it being a 2-lane roadway instead of a 4-lane boulevard.

John Isbell asked Sargent Simmons, "have there ever been any fatalities on Kirkwood?" Councilmember Isbell stated he was not debating the fact a two lane or a four lane road however what is safe and best for the citizens. Sergeant Simmons stated that he was not aware of any fatalities.

Councilmember Wilkens asked Sargent Richard Simmons, "how many have been reported on West Airport?" Sargent Simmons replied "none that he knew of", Councilmember John Isbell stated that West Airport is not the same type of street/road as Kirkwood; West Airport has sound walls preventing most if not all pedestrian traffic, I rarely see any pedestrian traffic on West Airport. Yet Kirkwood has many of our citizens crossing, especially children.

Terry Henley stated that under the new design, if it is four lanes, will not warrant stop signs on Kirkwood. There will be no traffic devices on Kirkwood so keep this in mind. It's legal within the current design.

Mayor Jessup stated that the motion is to table this item until results from TIP application are in and asked for a vote on the motion. The motion failed 2 – 3 with Councilmen Henley and Isbell voting "aye" and Councilmen Whiteman, Wilkens and Morgan voting "nay".

Mayor Jessup then called for a vote on the original motion to adopt the ordinance, The motion approving the ordinance, numbered **2012-38**, carried 3

– 2 with Councilmen Whiteman, Wilkens and Morgan voting “aye” and Councilmen Henley and Isbell voting “nay”.

Mayor Jessup then read the caption to the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE, TEXAS AUTHORIZING OPENING AN ACCOUNT IN WALLIS STATE BANK AND DESIGNATING SUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES.**

With the new Chief, a new signature card is required. Councilman Isbell made a motion, seconded by Councilman Henley, to adopt the resolution, numbered **2012 – 06**, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Council then considered taking action on corrections to minutes previously approved as follows: In April 24, 2012 Regular Meeting minutes, omit sentence on page 2 paragraph 7 “Mayor Jessup then read the caption to following Ordinance.” And in minutes of June 26, 2012 Regular Meeting, correct ordinance number of third ordinance passed from 2012-15 to 2012-16. Councilman Henley made a motion to approve the corrections as presented. Councilman Isbell seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Councilman Morgan made a motion to ratify a bill to Concrete Raising Corporation \$6,441.12. Councilman Whiteman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Councilman Wilkens made a motion to ratify a bill to Randle Law Office, Ltd, L.L.P. for \$8,034.49 for legal services completed in the city. Councilman Henley seconded this motion which carried unanimously.

During audience comments, Mayor Jessup invited a young audience to come to the podium and introduce himself. Tyler Bezner said he lived in the 11900 block of Amblewood and was in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

There being no further business to consider, Councilman Henley made a motion, seconded by Councilman Isbell, to adjourn the meeting. With unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 P.M.

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Yolanda M. Wilson, City Secretary